

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 29, 2004. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are currently pending in the application. As indicated above, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended, and Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Nojima et al.* (U.S. 4,329,655). It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has allowed Claims 6 and 7, and has found allowable subject matter in Claim 4.

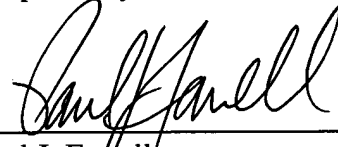
As indicated above, the Examiner has rejected independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Nojima*. In rejecting Claim 1 the Examiner asserts that *Nojima* teaches all the recitations of Claim 1. However, as indicated above, Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter cited by the Examiner, i.e., the recitations of Claim 4. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2, 3, and 5, they are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2, 3, and 5 are respectfully requested.

Again, it is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has allowed Claims 6 and 7.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims, namely Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", is written over a horizontal line.

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